Adirapalli Irrigation Scheme.

195. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) at what stage the Adirapalli Irrigation Scheme stands at present; and

(*b*) whether they have any intention of starting the scheme in the near future?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The project is held up on account of certain objections raised by the Cochin Government.

(*b*) No definite reply can be given now.

Special Officer for Huzur Records.

196. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that they contemplate getting down a pensioned officer of the Madras Government to formulate proposals for the preservation and destruction of the Secretariat records on a salary of Rs. 500 or so per mensem?

(*b*) Are they contemplating to get down this officer on account of the fact that the present officer who is in charge of the records is incompetent to set matters right, and, if so, how it is that he is retained there?

(*c*) If an officer is necessary to set matters right, cannot the Government find a competent man from many of the young and highly qualified and competent hands now in the Secretariat who may, if necessary, be deputed to Madras to acquaint himself with the latest system of file-keeping, preservation of records, etc., as was done during the previous administration?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The member is referred to the speech of the Chief Secretary to Government in the Council at its meeting on the 16th January, 1924, when moving for a supplementary grant under Demand No. VII.

Officer in Charge of the Account Section.

197. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the officer in charge of the Account and Records Sections makes his own recommendations in the selection of hands in the Secretariat and signs communications to subordinate officers in the name of the Chief Secretary to Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative and to the second part, in the affirmative.

Temperance Meeting at Sankhumukham.

198. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the speeches made and the resolutions passed at the Temperance Conference held at

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[Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.]

Sankhumukham on the 30th December last under the presidency of M. R. Ry. Dewan Bahadur A. Govinda Pillai Avargal, and, if so, what action has been taken by them in the matter?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Copies of the resolutions passed at the meeting were forwarded to the Government by the President and they have been referred to the Excise Commissioner.

Revenue Collection.

199. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to my question regarding the unsatisfactory nature of the collection work done by Tahsildars and the answer given by the Government, will the Government be pleased to state whether any report has since been received from the Land Revenue Commissioner on the matter and what action has been taken thereon?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The report called for from the Land Revenue Commissioner has been received and it is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When was the report received?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Three weeks ago.

Prosecution of Grave Offences.

200. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of times the District Superintendents of Police and the Assistant Superintendents of Police have attended courts to watch the prosecution of grave offences in 1098?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A statement* furnishing the information required by the member is laid on the table.

Work of the Excise Committee.

201. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many meetings of the Excise Committee have been held;

(*b*) what progress has been made; and

(*c*) whether the report will be ready in Makaram as required in the G. O.?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Only one meeting was held and that was on the 12th January, 1924.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government have no information.

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* *Vide* Appendix II page 689.

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